TALKING POLITICS—LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2019—IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. /7/Dec

The ***2019 Local Government Elections in Trinidad and Tobago*** is over and the conversation has shifted to the necessary *changes to all behaviour*, in this vital system of ***Democrac***y we have.

Comments made by the Deputy Political Leader of the UNC, Ms. Kadijah Ameen were responded to by me, based on my **25 month**, evidenced based research in the ***Diego Martin Regional Corporation***, attending all of their Statutory Meetings, minus a few, a Constitutional and Legal Right of Electors in an Electoral District.

You are correct Kadijah, we need to get more holistic in our thinking of this powerful institution we cherish, Democracy and voting behaviour in order to maintain the correct balance. ***2020 is a few months away and if political parties and aspiring independents get seriously involved in change methodology, targeting those of the mass who do not vote, we can have a more acceptable result for General Election.***

In my ***Region of Diego Martin***, we are now going to get an Alderman, since the 2010 LGE and **I sat for 25 months (2 years and 1 month) in the last Regional Council at their Statutory Meetings**, making a contribution every time, on behalf of the ***500 persons who voted for me in 2016***. Joey Lewis, the appointed Councillor, got 1,500 votes. That was a beautiful and rewarding evidenced based research opportunity, which I would not have had, if I did not get the approval of the UNC to be their Candidate in 2016.

What was most poignant, was the failure of this system to meet the needs of their Electors. The frustration experienced by the Council, recorded in all their minutes, is there for confirmation of what was just said.

I was so happy to see that only **two of those Councillors chose to come back**, although I am seeing some names put forward as Aldermen. ***One major problem was the Council not using the power in the Act 21 of 1990, the Municipal Corporation Act, to get the work done, partly because of ignorance of that power and the refusal to put the people before the party approval.***

Sincerely hope that all those Candidates for this Council, attend Statutory Monthly Meetings and make contributions on behalf of those who voted for them, especially if they rightly get back personally, the deposits they paid EBC, 2,000.00 dollars, to be a Candidate.

The EBC has no authority to keep that money or send it any other place but to them and such return, if they get 12 or more percent of the total votes cast, is theirs by right, can be used to offset their travel expenses for the term of this Council.

Looking forward to the ***Local Government Reform upcoming*** and in relevance to the critical analysis done by the Political Leader of the UNC on the 13th August 2019.

Signed ……Donald D. Berment, Housing Specialist, HSDS/NGADVC.
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